



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 10/617,461
Applicant : Bernd Matthes et al.
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MAIL STOP AMENDMENT (FEE)
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

May 6, 2005

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

This Preliminary Amendment is being filed in this Continued Examination application to respond to the issues raised in the Final Office Action mailed December 7, 2004. Please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/arguments begin on page 6 of this paper.